

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06565 292034Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /057 W

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R 291953Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTIVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6565

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: IS MRS. PERON COMING?

1. INDEPENDENCE BATTLE OF MAIPU CEREMONIES OCT. 24, IN WHICH LONG-DELAYED VOTIVE TEMPLE TO VIRGIN OF EL CARMEN WAS INAUGURATED, INCLUDED ATTENDANCE BY TOP-LEVEL ARGENTINE DELEGATION HEADED BY MIN DEFENSE ADOLFO MARIO SAVINO AND ARMY CINC GEN. LEANDRO ENRIQUE ANAYA. SAME DAY SAVINO AND ANAYA PAID COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF OF STATE GEN. PINOCHET, AFTER WHICH SAVINO TOLD REPORTERS THAT ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON WOULD INDEED VISIT CHILE "AS SOON AS HER SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW." RUMORS OF A VISIT BY MRS. PERON HAVE PERIODICALLY CIRCULATED IN SANTIAGO FOR SOME TIME.

2. QUERIED DURING REGULAR FRIDAY PRESS CONF. OCT. 25, ACTING UNDER SEC FOREIGN RELATIONS CARLOS VALENZUELA SAID THAT "THERE IS A GREAT CHILEAN INTEREST IN RECEIVING PRESIDENT PERON" AND THAT SHE WOULD BE OFFICIALLY INVITED IN NEAR FUTURE.

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3. ANAYA LEFT CHILE OCT 27 AND SAVINO THE FOLLOWING DAY

WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECT. HOWEVER, SANTIAGO RADIO STATIONS OCT 28, BUT NOT PRESS, REPORTED A SHARP DECLARATION BY ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT NO VISIT BY MRS. PERON TO CHILE WAS CONTEMPLATED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. GOC HAS MADE NO COMMENT ON RADIO REPORTS.

4. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SAVINO MAY HAVE MADE A FAUX PAS IN GIVING IMPRESSION THAT VISIT BY PRESIDENT PERON IS IMMINENT. BOTH GOC AND GOA GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PROCLAIM THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS ALREADY EXIST. GOC WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME SUCH A VISIT AS A VISIBLE ANTIDOTE TO ITS ISOLATION BUT WE FAIL TO SEE WHAT POLITICAL BENEFITS MRS. PERON COULD HOPE TO REAP.
POPPER

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